

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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UNCLAS TOKYO 14392

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, JA

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR SHIP MUTSU

REF: 1. TOKYO 13415, 2. TOKYO 13554

SUMMARY: A SPECIAL STA COMMITTEE CONCLUDED THAT THE NEUTRON DOSE RATE AT SOME POINTS OUTSIDE THE MUTSU REACTOR SHIELD WAS HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF MILLI-REM PER HOUR COMPARED TO A DESIGN VALUE OF 100 MILLI-REM PER HOUR AND THE PROBLEM CAN BE CORRECTED WITH ADDITIONAL SHIELDING. MASAACKI KURAMOTO HAS BEEN NOMINATED DIRECTOR OF JNSDA REPLACING HORI.

1. THE MUTSU RADIATION SHIELD TECHNICAL COMMITTEE WAS ORGANIZED BY THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AGENCY (STA) TO INVESTIGATE THE CAUSE OF RADIATION DETECTED PASSING THROUGH THE MUTSU SHIELD DURING TESTS LAST SEPTEMBER. THE COMMITTEE, ORGANIZED ON SEPT. 7, MADE ITS FINAL REPORT TO STA AND THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION ON NOV. 5.

2. THE REPORT, BASED ON ANALYSIS OF DATA TAKEN ON BOARD THE MUTSU, SAID THE NEUTRON DOSE RATE (ABOVE THE REACTOR) UNCLASSIFIED

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OUTSIDE THE SHIELD DUE TO VERTICAL STREAMING THROUGH A GAP

WAS HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS MILLI-REM PER HOUR. THE NEUTRON DOSE OUTSIDE THE REACTOR SHIELD LEAKING HORIZONTALLY (FROM THE REACTOR AXIS) WAS AS DESIGNED, 100 MILLI-REMS PER HOUR.

3. THE COMMITTEE CONCLUDED THAT THE MODERATING EFFECT OF THE PRIMARY COOLANT WATER WAS NOT CORRECTLY CALCULATED, THAT THE FAST NEUTRON FLUX AT THE PRESSURE VESSEL WAS UNDERESTIMATED AND THAT THE MUTSU SHIELD PROBLEM CAN BE CORRECTED BY INSTALLING ADDITIONAL SHIELDING OF POLYETHYLENE AND A SPECIAL AGGREGATE CONCRETE.

4. A NEW MUTSU RADIATION LEAKAGE INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE IS BEING FORMED AS AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE PRIME MINISTER. IT WILL DO FOLLOW-UP STUDIES ON REBUILDING THE MUTSU AND ATTEMPT TO ASSIGN RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MUTSU INCIDENT.

5. EFFECTIVE NOV. 1, MASAACKI KURAMOTO WAS NOMINATED DIRECTOR OF THE JAPAN NUCLEAR SHIP DEVELOPMENT AGENCY. SUMEO HORI RESIGNED AS DIRECTOR EFFECTIVE THE SAME DAY. THIS IS THE FIRST OF EXPECTED PERSONNEL CHANGES IN THE WAKE OF THE MUTSU PROBLEM. KURAMOTO PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS DIRGEN JAEB AND LATER AS STA SCIENCE COUNCILLOR. SINCE SEPT. 3, 1974 HE HAS BEEN AN ADVISOR TO JNSDA. HORI HAS BEEN RETAINED AS A TECHNICAL ADVISOR TO JNSDA.
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